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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6550

BILL NUMBER: HB 1330

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 2, 2004

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Detention Period of Runaway Juveniles.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Ayres

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Passed House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill increases the time a runaway child may be held in a juvenile detention facility to 24 hours before and 24 hours immediately after an initial hearing.

Effective Date: July 1, 2004.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Under current law, juveniles who are runaways may be placed in a juvenile detention facility for up to 24 hours, not including weekends and holidays. If this limit is changed, court and law enforcement staff will have more time to find an appropriate placement for these juveniles.

Background: Runaways generally tend to be lower-risk offenders than other juveniles who are in juvenile detention facilities. Staff at some detention facilities have difficulties separating low-risk offenders from higher-risk offenders due to space limitations. Currently, there are 24 juvenile detention facilities in 22 counties in Indiana.

No information was available on the specific number of runaways in Indiana.

The following table contains data on status offenses reported to the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute as a part of its compliance monitoring role. The data, provided by juvenile detention centers, are for reports received between July 1, 2001, and June 30, 2002. It should be noted that an individual could be counted more than once in any given category (e.g., a youth who ran away more than once during the reporting period).

Moreover, an individual can be counted in multiple categories (e.g., a youth who committed two different status offenses during the reporting period). (Note: Consequently, simply adding the numbers does not produce the total number of unique juveniles held in detention centers during the reporting period.)

Compliance Monitoring Reporting Data Status Offenses Reported by Juvenile Detention Centers July 1, 2001, to June 30, 2002		
Runaway	1,525	65.8%
Truancy	254	11.0%
Ungovernable	164	7.1%
Liquor law	320	13.8%
Miscellaneous (e.g., Curfew)	54	2.3%
Total	2,317	100.0%

The Division of State Court Administration also reports on the total number of status offenders, of which runaways are a subset. The following table shows that the number of status offenders has generally ranged between 4,300 and 4,719 between 1997 and 2002.

Status Offender Cases Disposed in Juvenile Court by Calendar Year less Number of Cases Dismissed.					
1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
4,719	4,355	4,253	4,515	4,711	4,379

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

Local Agencies Affected: Courts and Juvenile Detention Facilities.

Information Sources: Jeff Bercovitz, Indiana Judicial Center; Pam Cline, Bartholomew County Juvenile Detention Center; *Indiana Judicial Report*.

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